

1-22-1883

Letter from James H. Rion to Thomas G. Clemson, 1883 January 22

Follow this and additional works at: <https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/tgc>

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyright law (Title 17, U.S. code). Use of these materials beyond the exceptions provided for in the Fair Use and Educational Use clauses of the U.S. Copyright Law may violate federal law.

For additional rights information, please contact Kirstin O'Keefe ([kokeefe \[at\] clemson \[dot\] edu](mailto:kokeefe@clemson.edu))

For additional information about the collections, please contact the Special Collections and Archives by phone at 864.656.3031 or via email at [cuscl \[at\] clemson \[dot\] edu](mailto:cuscl@clemson.edu)

Recommended Citation

"Letter from James H. Rion to Thomas G. Clemson, 1883 January 22" (1883). *Thomas Green Clemson Papers, Mss 2*. 1343.

<https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/tgc/1343>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Manuscript Collections at TigerPrints. It has been accepted for inclusion in Thomas Green Clemson Papers, Mss 2 by an authorized administrator of TigerPrints. For more information, please contact kokeefe@clemson.edu.

(Copy)

A/
C626.

Beck's Is. S.C.

Jan 22nd 1883

Col. Jas. H. Rion

Winnsboro S.C.

My Dear Col.

Some kind hand has sent me a copy of Mr. Hunter's letter wherein he expresses his determination to abandon his work. Mr. Hunter and Col. Clemson have both suggested you as well fitted to complete the unfinished task, with access to documents, books &c. Having enjoyed the acquaintance upon intimate terms, of Mr. Leachman, and possessing the ability to do justice to his memory who could so well supply Mr. Hunter's place? But upon the possibility of your declining, Col. Clemson turns to me, or what is equivalent to you and me, for should I undertake the work it must be upon your endorsement of Col. Clemson's good opinion and the assurance of literary assistance. Looking to this matter, I conversed with Maj. H. Hammond who has had some experience in book-making and the result of our conversation was conveyed

in my postal to you. I agree with Mr. Hunter
that "the importance of a fair and complete life
of Mr. Calhoun will increase with time". As
he says "time would be requisite not only
for its composition, but for the study necessary
to do it justice". If that distinguished states-
man and accomplished writer shrunk before the
labour and difficulties of his task, what must
be my feelings. Mr Hunter doubtless has a
large library of political books; I have none.
I am here out of the world and without the
means of getting into it. Like Mr. Hunter, I
am poor. It would be necessary to have access
to public and private libraries, and months of
research and study would be requisite to place
me in condition to begin writing. The idea of
writing such a work is attractive. I am entirely
Calhounistic in my view of the Federal Consti-
tution and I fall below no one in estimating
the importance of our duplicate system of govern-
ment. In its original purity our Federal gov-
ernment was an admirable invention and it is
intended, I am persuaded, to lead to results

not at present generally suspected. As to Mr. Calhoun himself, you have heard me speak of the impression he made upon me. By the series of fortunate accidents I enjoyed the privilege of seeing several of our great men. Above them all Mr. Calhoun towered extraordinary and still stands supreme.

x x x

Very Truly Yours
Wm Pinckney Starks.

(copy)

Winnsboro' S.C. 24th Jan. '83

Wm. Pinckney Starks Esq.

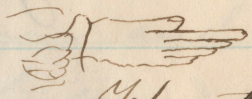
Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 22nd inst. I sent you Mr. Hunter's letter.

My time is so engrossed that I would be able to do very little to help you in completing the Life of Mr. Calhoun. You could use me as "consulting Atty", besides I would write two Chapters -
"Mr. Calhoun on Slavery"
"Mr. Calhoun at Home"

I think with Mr. Clemson's acquaintance with

Mr. Calhoun's views, and your own facility with the pen and the English language, and knowledge of Ante-Bellum politics, you could finish Mr. Hunter's work in a manner worthy of the subject.

 But I fear a long delay in getting Mr. Hunter's 1st Vol. and the materials I sent him by Mr. Clemson's direction. Mr. H. is difficult to move.

Very Respectfully.

Your Obedient Servant

Geo. H. Riven